

CHESHAM UNITED 1, WYCOMBE WANDERERS 3

WYCOMBE Wanderers needed extra time to dispose of a useful Chesham side in the semi-final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. In fact all four goals came in the extra period.

A goal-less draw is seldom a recipe for excitement, and the normal time of this game was no exception.

After Wycombe's poor performances recently, United must have had hopes of putting the visitors out of this competition, especially with ground advantage, and opened the match firmly and confidently.

As early as the eighth minute, in fact, Chesham had the ball in the net, only to be disappointed by the referee's whistle for offside.

Referee R. J. Pardoe, from Reading, made it very clear in the early stages that physical contact was to be kept to a minimum and this did not help a game that was dull in any case. The constant stoppages were frustrating for both players and spectators.

Honours in the first half were shared with play restricted to midfield, where once again the Blues were found wanting in application. Only John Priestley showed effort, and went a long way to containing an attack that looked dangerous on the break.

OFFSIDE TRAP

Although the most pressure in the first period came from the Wanderers, little came of the attacks due to expert handling of the off-side trap by United. On those occasions when Wycombe did get clear, the shooting was poor, and a bad miss by Micky Holifield after 27 minutes from a superb headed cross from Tony Horseman, seemed to set the pattern for another poor Blues' performance in front of goal.

Probably Wycombe's best chance of scoring came after 37 mins. when Horseman was clear down the middle only to be held back by the shirt by Peter Johnson, for which the Chesham defender was booked.

Both sides were still bereft of ideas in the second half, although Wanderers had the better of the play with the back

four firm. The services of the injured Bobby Davies on the left were missed, his deputy Richard Strong showing inexperience in tight situations. And on the left too, Holifield had a poor game.

No-one could have foreseen the goals that were to come in extra time. After all, both defences had played well, with both goalkeepers more than able to cope with any danger. The man of the match at this stage was undoubtedly Peter Johnson, who in spite of his earlier booking, was a tower of strength at the heart of United's defence.

NIPPED ROUND

The first goal came four minutes into extra time. Birdseye cleared high and hard up the middle and for once Bobby Peck was unsure, allowing Derek Harris to nip round him and lob over the advancing Laurie Cole.

On 100 minutes, United levelled through Kerry Dixon who put the final touch, a header, to a goalmouth scramble.

Four minutes later, Wycombe were back in front with a most spectacular goal. Alan Phillips, alone on the left, crossed goalwards from fully 30 yards, and Cole misjudging the flight allowed it to creep under his bar.

Now well on top, Wycombe showed the true difference between the sides. Peck forced into a rare error, touched a harmless Horseman cross past his own keeper.

So complete was the Blues' superiority in the closing stages, that Chesham mounted no attack at all during the final period of extra time.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, R. Strong, K. Mead, A. Phillips, J. Priestley, G. McKenzie, M. Holifield, D. Harris, H. Kennedy, A. Horseman. Subs (not used): R. Day, D. Evans.

CHESHAM: L. Cole, P. Denham, A. Ayling, P. Johnson, B. Peck, G. Taylor (B. Mapp 90 mins), S. Atlains, J. Morris (R. McCarthy 65 mins), K. Beaven, M. Tanski, K. Dixon.